

Year 5 Unit 5b Parent Guidance

We can explain each step when we write subtraction calculations in columns using the compact method with whole numbers and up to two places of decimals

In this unit

Activity Sheet

Activity Sheet Answers

Extension Activity

Have you watched the video of 'What we are Learning?'

What we are learning:

- We can use the compact method of subtraction for calculations with decimals.

If we have $47.8 - 33.5$ we set it out like this:

$$\begin{array}{r} 47.8 \\ 33.5 - \\ \hline 14.3 \end{array}$$

- The decomposition method can also be used with decimals.

$$49.6 - 22.7$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 48\overset{\color{red}\boxed{9}}{\cdot}16 \\ 22\cdot7 - \\ \hline 26\cdot9 \end{array}$$

In this case there were not enough units ($6 - 7$) so we partitioned the 9 units into 8 units and ten tenths. We have not 'borrowed' anything, we have simply used decomposition, or partitioning to break up the top number and write it in a different way so that we can complete the subtraction.

Activities you can do at home:

- Try some subtractions using decimals that do not require decomposition like these:
 $34.7 - 21.2$
 $55.9 - 41.3$
 $99.9 - 44.8$
- Then try some that do require decomposition like these:
 $56.1 - 33.9$
 $99.2 - 33.4$
 $71.9 - 59.5$

Good questions to ask:

Do we have to use decomposition in this calculation?

If we do, how are we going to partition the top number?

Can you take it away now?

If your child:

Is unsure how to partition decimals

Talk through the fact that decimals behave in just the same way as whole numbers as each column gets ten times smaller as you move to the right, or ten times bigger as you move to the left.